



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Inventor(s) : Shoji HAYAKAWA  
Application No. : 10/552,619  
Filed : August 31, 2006  
For : PIPE CONNECTING STRUCTURE  
Examiner : James M. Hewitt  
Group Art Unit : 3679  
Atty. Docket No. : VX052694 PCT

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 6, 2007

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks in response to the Official action mailed on August 9, 2007. The Official action set forth a three-month period for response, and a petition for a one-month extension of time is attached hereto, making this response due on or before December 9, 2007. Since December 9, 2007, was a Sunday, the filing of this response on the next business day, namely, Monday, December 10, 2007 is timely.

**Specification Amendments** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 9 of this paper and include three attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.